



**Steven K. Young, Director**

### **CMS Begins Implementation of Psychosocial Severity Guidance**

DES MOINES, IOWA (June 8, 2006) – The Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) was notified late on the afternoon of June 7<sup>th</sup> by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) that the federal agency will begin implementing its Psychosocial Severity Guidance effective June 8, 2006. CMS had earlier announced that the implementation of the new guidance would be indefinitely postponed until concerns expressed by one of its stakeholders could be considered and evaluated.

As a result of CMS' most recent decision, staff from DIA's Health Facilities Division will begin surveying certified long-term care facilities for compliance with the new guidelines. The purpose of the Psychosocial Outcome Severity Guide is to help surveyors determine the severity of psychosocial outcomes resulting from the identified noncompliance at a specific F tag. The Guide is used to determine the severity of a deficiency in any regulatory grouping (e.g., Quality of Care, Quality of Life) that resulted in a negative psychosocial outcome.

Copies of training materials associated with the implementation of the new Psychosocial Severity Guidance can be downloaded from the Department's Hot Notices web page at the following Internet address: <http://www.state.ia.us/government/dia/page20.html>.

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This release and other news items from the Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) may be found on the Department's "Hot Notices" web page at <http://www.state.ia.us/government/dia/page20.html>.